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(54) Title: ABSORBENT ARTICLE

(57) Abstract: Absorbent articles and processes for making absorbent articles are provided. The process includes spraying onto a fibrous web a blend containing superabsorbent polymer particles, superabsorbent forming monomer, initiator and water, and subjecting the web to polymerization conditions. The resulting web is useful as an absorbent article particularly in disposable hygiene products.

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PCT / IB 01 / 00387 A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 A61L15/00 D06M D06M15/263 D06M23/06 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) A61L D06M Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. EP 0 290 814 A (MITSUBISHI PETROCHEMICAL 1 - 4Α CO ; UNI CHARM CORP (JP)) 17 November 1988 (1988-11-17) claims US 4 748 076 A (SAOTOME KAZUO) 1-5,7,16Α 31 May 1988 (1988-05-31) the whole document EP 0 454 497 A (NIPPON CATALYTIC CHEM IND) 1 - 4Α 30 October 1991 (1991-10-30) page 3, line 34 - line 39; claims 5 US 5 352 480 A (HANSEN MICHAEL R ET AL) Α 4 October 1994 (1994-10-04) abstract -/--Further documents are tisted in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or pnorty date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone filing date *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is caled to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-"O" document reterring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled other means document published pnor to the international fitting date but later than the pnorty date claimed *&* document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 06/08/2001 25 July 2001 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentiaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo ni,

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